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EDITORIAL

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In this issue we have devoted almost a quarter of the space in the Newsletter to reports and reviews of the first Dover Arts Festival, held from 18th to 31st May 1992. Organised by Dover District Council and the Arts and Libraries department of Kent County Council, this was a most exciting and ambitious venture and, it is hoped, the first of a series of annual Festivals. Several of our members and readers have written reviews of the events they attended and Maggie Waite, a Society member and one of the members of the planning committee for the Festival, has written an account of the organisation and presentation of the two weeks, packed with concerts, exhibitions, walks, talks, films and workshops. Members who were unfortunate enough to have missed the Festival this year will be able to appreciate the variety and diversity of events which were on offer and can look forward to attending similar occasions in 1993.

This year's A.G.M. is reported in this issue because it took place too late for the inclusion of a full report in *Newsletter* No.13. Our two successful summer outings, to St. Nicholas Vineyard and Chatham Dockyard, are also chronicled. Many thanks to our members who have written the accounts of these Society events and also to Committee members who keep us up-to-date on local issues; water and sewage; tree planting; Lydden Pond; Environment Week and Town Planning.

There is not a lot to report this time on local issues. Work on the A20 continues apace, with the almost mandatory traffic delays in Townwall Street, gaping holes in Bench Street and the almost-completed sweep of the new sea wall at East Cliff. At Wellington Dock the Transport Museum opened officially on 2nd August and Dover Harbour Board, after completing the demolition of their Social Hall, have started work on part of the new development of the area; more details of this in the next *Newsletter*.

With the confirmation of the plans to demolish the old Co-op building in Biggin 123 Street, the Society will hope to become involved in the discussion of the architecture of the proposed new shops on the site.

This issue introduces a new series entitled "Working for Dover", which aims to present the views of individuals who are enthusiastic in their work for the future development and regeneration of the town. The first articles in this series are written by two of our newest members, who work at the White Cliffs Experience.

By the date of the publication of this Newsletter, members will have already booked their tickets for the St. Omer trip on 12th September. We hope this will be as successful as the Calais trip was in 1991.

Details of the Society's programme of meetings from September to April are given on the inside of the back cover, as usual. The first meeting of the Autumn, on 12th October, promises to be of crucial importance and great interest to members, who may, in fact, have the opportunity to air their views and perhaps to influence the progress of some of the events of the next three years in Dover, when Impact, the Town Regeneration Scheme, will have £800,000, at least, to spend on our town. Julian Owen, the Impact Project Leader, will address the meeting which, in view of its importance, can be seen as an opportunity to launch the project in Dover. It has been decided to make this an open meeting rather than one for members only. A Members' Meeting has been re-scheduled for 22nd March, a month before the A.G.M.

The November meeting is a Dickens' Evening, with readings from the novelist's works by Professor Curry, an old boy of Dover Boys' Grammar School. There will be no charge for admission, but programmes will cost £1, the proceeds being given to two charities of Professor Curry's choice, the Split Charity and a local charity for the homeless. We hope to fill the hall, so please note the date for your diary.

For the December meeting, our Annual Christmas Feast, I give my usual advice - book early, for places are limited to one hundred seats.

We are delighted to welcome to the Committee, Joan Liggett as Social Secretary and to convey our thanks to her for stepping in to fill the place left by the resignation of Lin Clackett. We wish her every success.

Would any forgetful members who have not yet paid this year's subscription, please send them soon to Sheila Cope, the Membership Secretary. We are hoping to recruit many more members this year - the stronger we are the more effective canbe our influence. Members can help in this recruitment drive by telling friends about the Society, inviting them to meetings and introducing them to the Newsletter, for which purpose copies of most A5 issues may be obtained from the Editor, and/or from the producer, A. F. (Budge) Adams at 24 Castle Avenue.